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(54) **OPERATING SYSTEM RESOURCE PROTECTION**

(75) Inventors: **Jude Jacob Kavalam**, Seattle, WA (US); **Timothy D. Noonan**, Cary, NC (US); **Valeriy Tsuryk**, Sammamish, WA (US); **RoseMarie FitzSimons**, Seattle, WA (US); **Jonathan C. Lew**, Redmond, WA (US); **Freddie Lee Aaron**, Bothell, WA (US); **Edward J. Praitis**, Woodinville, WA (US); **David B. Probert**, Woodinville, WA (US); **Eric Li**, Redmond, WA (US); **John Austin Rector**, Redmond, WA (US); **Dragos C. Sambotin**, Issaquah, WA (US); **Genevieve Fernandes**, Bellevue, WA (US)

Correspondence Address:
SENNIGER, POWERS, LEAVIT & ROEDEL
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE, 16TH FLOOR
ST. LOUIS, MO 63102 (US)

(73) Assignee: **Microsoft Corporation**, Redmond, WA

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Granting an application program access to a resource as a function of a privilege associated with the application program. An embodiment of the invention employs a persistent, individual identity associated with the components of an application program or a group of application programs to allow an operating system to identify and differentiate between different application programs or groups of application programs installed on a computing system. The identity associated with each component of an application program enables the identification and removal or uninstallation of the application program. The identity also enables isolation of resources of the application program and protection of operating system resources.